

LIKE OUT OF WORK ACTORS

nine out of ten kids
when i pass
practice yelling
"taxi!"
and in my opinion
they all have
potential.
they understand
the humor of the situation.
they dig the ontological
quotation marks.
they are very young

COURTESY IS NOT DEAD

i walked in
and a wedge of bikers
was backing a local drunk
into the corner.
"taxi," i announced.
they looked at each other.
"did you call a taxi?"
"no, i didn't call a
taxi did you call a taxi?"
guess who remembered
and said, "it must have
been that old guy, he
left 45 minutes ago."
i headed for the door
as the boys with no sleeves
refocused their attention.

AT THE CABBIE'S STUDIO

i've been studying
the method.

an old guy comes out
of the roger davis memorial tavern
the deadliest run in town
and wants to go to the cooper arms
(2 bucks away) after a stop
at the save-on.
i put the stick down
and he's gone ten minutes
and then he wants to go
to the safeway.
as soon as he's in the door
i drive around the block
three times and then one more
time and he comes out
and we drive around the corner
to the cooper arms
and he says, "jesus christ,
you got a fast meter, fella,
i usually tip a buck"
and i say, like hud drunk,
"i wouldn't take a tip
from you, old man."

and he leaves the door open
and i lean over and close it.